

Remarks

Note Regarding Preliminary Amendment

The Examiner did not enter the amendments made in the preliminary amendment of December 31, 2001. All such changes have been incorporated in this response. As such, applicant respectfully requests that such changes be accepted.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Independent claims 1, 2, and 4 have been cancelled. Claim 3 now depends from new claim 11. As such, it is believed that the rejection be withdrawn since the preamble has been changed to state "a method for folding edges over wide breaker ply over edges of a narrow breaker ply."

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103 is obvious over JP 54-80381 to Mitsubishi. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 3 is amended to be dependent on new claim 11. This claim sets forth the feature of maintaining the belt in tension for keeping the overlap edge of the wide breaker ply in contact with the belt during the application of the overlap edges over the side edges. This feature is not shown or taught by the Japanese patent which bends the overlap edge and does not have a belt for supporting the overlap edge during the folding of the edges over the edges of the narrow breaker ply.

New claim 11 sets forth the method of this invention by describing this novel method as performed on the special apparatus of this invention including the steps of wrapping said wide breaker ply over said center module and folding the belt on each side of said center module and then moving the nose piece axially inward over the center module for folding the edges and then "moving each said nose piece axially outward peeling said belt from said folded edges."

In the Japanese publication flexible "elastic" tapes contact the breaker ply to bend it when the segment is expanded and shrunk. As shown in Fig. 5 – 3 this stretches the edge of the ply a distance equal to the width of the folded edge. This is not desirable as it results in an uncertain

condition of the ply edges. This problem is discussed in the "Background of the Invention" lines 14 – 20. With the method of this invention the breaker ply edges are moved axially inward to maintain the nose piece surface at an equal distance from the axes 0 – 0 of the drum assembly.

This minimizes the stretching of the plies during the folding process.

New claim 11 is believed to clearly distinguish over the Japan patent and set forth a novel improved method for folding breaker ply edges for the reasons set forth above.

Conclusion

In response to the Office Action dated November 17, 2003, claims 1, 2 and 4 have been deleted, claim 3 has been amended, and claim 11 has been added. It is believed this amendment has placed the amended claims in conformance with the requirements of the Office Action. As such, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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